

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SCEM-01 EB-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 COME-00 DRC-01

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 /053 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4491

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY

CINCPAC HAWAII PRIORITY

DFSC ALEXANDRIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEHRAN 8064

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 4 A N D 6

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EIND, IR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE IRANIAN POL FOR US MILITARY FORCES,
PACIFIC AREA

SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY CINCPAC REP
FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING IRANIAN PETROLEUM FOR US
FORCES IN PACIFIC AREA. ACCORDING TO OUR BEST INFOR-
MATION THERE MAY BE SOME QUANTITIES OF FUEL AVAILABLE
FOR SALE. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE INITIAL APPROACH SHOULD
BE MADE TO CONSORTIUM MEMBER COMPANIES, BEFORE CONSIDERING
DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI. END SUMMARY.

1. CAPT. HIGGINS, PACIFIC JOINT PETROLEUM OFFICER
ASSIGNED TO CINCPAC STAFF, CURRENTLY VISITING TEHRAN,
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HAS DESCRIBED PETROLEUM REQUIREMENTS OF US FORCES IN

PACIFIC AREA AND REQUESTED EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN SECURING FEL FROM IRANIAN SOURCES. ACCORDING TO HIGGINS, USG PACIFIC NEEDS TOTAL 185,000 BARRELS PER DAY, PREFERABLY REFINED PRODUCTS BUT CRUDE ACCEPTABLE. LARGEST ITEM IN TOTAL AMOUNT IS 100,000 BPD JP4.

2. RELIABILITY OF EMBASSY'S INFORMATION ON IRANIAN PETROLEUM AVAILABILITY IS AFFECTED BY LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF DEALS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED DURING RECENT EMERGENCY PERIOD. FOLLOWING DATA SHOULD BE USED WITH THAT QUALIFICATION IN MIND.

3. DURING FIRST NINE MONTHS THIS YEAR ABADAN REFINERY INPUT AVERAGED 425,000 BPD OF WHICH 135,000 ALLOCATED TO NIOC FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND ABOUT 290,000 FOR CONSORTIUM MEMBERS' EXPORT SALES. POTENTIAL MAXIMUM OUTPUT OF ABADAN IS AROUND 475,000 BPD UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THIS FIGURE WILL BE REDUCED BECAUSE OF COLD WEATHER CONDITIONS. THEREFORE, THERE MAY BE POTENTIAL SURPLUS CAPACITY AMOUNTING TO POSSIBLE 50,000 BPD OF ABADAN-REFINED PRODUCTS. EITHER NIOC OR CONSORTIUM MEMBERS COULD, WE BELIEVE, HAVE ACCESS TO THIS EXCESS CAPACITY.

4. RE CRUDE OIL AVAILABILITY, WE UNDERSTAND NIOC HAS COMMITTED ITS ENTIRE ALLOCATION OF CRUDE OIL THROUGH THIS CALENDAR YEAR. AS OF JANUARY 1, 350,000 BPD OF CRUDE AVAILABLE TO NIOC IS NOT ACCOUNTED FOR BY COMMITMENTS KNOWN TO US. MUCH OF IT WILL CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN COMMITTED. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF QUANTITY OF CRUDE WHICH CONSORTIUM MEMBERS MIGHT HAVE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT PRESENT OR IN 1974.

5. CLEARLY DURING THIS CRISIS PERIOD IRANIANS ARE EXPERIENCING HEAVY PRESSURES TO MAKE SALES COMMITMENTS. IF USG IS TO OBTAIN IRANIAN PETROLEUM FOR PACIFIC AREA, IT WILL HAVE TO ACT QUICKLY.

6. WE STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT BEFORE CONSIDERING INSTRUCTIONS TO US TO APPROACH GOI, DOD AND STATE DISCUSS
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REQUIREMENTS AND AVAILABILITIES WITH CONSORTIUM MEMBER COMPANIES. WE ASSUME THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INITIATED AND WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT. DEPENDING NATURE OF THIS REPORT, WE MIGHT THEN WANT TO ADVISE THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER PRESENTING PROPOSAL FOR US TO RAISE WITH GOI. IN THAT EVENT, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH SHAH ON THIS MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY.
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